

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 128357

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TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 237

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJ: FOREIGN PRESS REACTIONS

REF: SECTO 18
TO EAGLEBURGER FROM HYLAND

1. FOLLOWING IS THIRD INR ROUNDUP OF FOREIGN PRESS REACTIONS TO SALZBURG PRESS CONFERENCE AVAILABLE AS OF 1400 EDT, JUNE 14.

2. BRITAIN:

(A) THE TIMES' LEAD EDITORIAL OF JUNE 13 SAID: "WHEN FOREIGN STATESMEN CONTEMPLATE THE POSSIBILITY THAT MR. NIXON WILL BE IMPEACHED, THEY COMFORT THEMSELVES WITH THE THOUGHT THAT DR. KISSINGER WILL SURVIVE TO GUARANTEE THE CONTINUITY OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY....HIS SKILL AND ENERGY, COMBINED WITH SOME DEVIOUSNESS, HAVE BROUGHT NEW COHERENCE TO AMERICAN POLICY AND GREATLY FURTHERED THE INTERESTS OF THE US AND THE FREE WORLD AS A WHOLE. HIS CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 128357

RESIGNATION WOULD BE FAR MORE ALARMING TO THE WORLD THAN THAT OF MR. NIXON."

(B) THE GUARDIAN'S HELLA PICK, WRITING FROM WASHINGTON,

JUNE 13, COMMENTED THAT THE SECRETARY'S "MAIN TARGETS" ARE THE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL HAIG, WHO HAS "BECOME THE PRESIDENT'S WILLING HENCHMAN." SHE ASSERTED THAT THE SECRETARY BELIEVES THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL TAPES COULD PROVE HIS INNOCENCE IN THE WIRETAPPING CASE, AND THAT HE APPARENTLY THINKS THAT HAIG MAY BE "ONE OF THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE LEAK AND INNUENDOES." SHE THOUGHT THAT, BY CALLING FOR A SENATE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION, THE SECRETARY MAY ALSO BE SEEKING TO COUNTER SENATOR JACKSON, "WHO HAS BEEN LEADING THE BATTALIONS AGAINST DETENTE."

3. GERMANY:

(A) AN EDITORIAL IN THE SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG SAID THAT IT WAS WRONG FOR THE SECRETARY TO SPEAK OF RESIGNING, "FOR THAT ONLY INFLAMES THE APPETITE OF THE 'MOLOCH' IN WASHINGTON: AN ATMOSPHERE THAT CALLS FOR BLOOD AND SACRIFICES, EVEN OF THE LEAST REPLACEABLE MAN IN THE WORLD. HIS SUCCESSES CANNOT PROTECT HIM AS LONG AS NIXON USES THEM."

(B) JAN REIFENBERG, THE WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT OF THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, WROTE: "THE CREEPING CRITICS REMIND ONE, AFTER THEIR FASHION, OF THE WITCH HUNT TACTICS OF THAT SENATOR MCCARTHY WHOM THEY, AND RIGHTLY, ABHORRED. IF THE US LOSES THIS MAN NOW, THE DAMAGE CAN HARDLY BE CALCULATED. THE WORLD'S POLICY-MAKING WILL CONTINUE. CAREER DIPLOMATS WILL MOVE ON THEIR APPOINTED ROUNDS SILENTLY AND UNIMAGINATIVELY. BUT THE STIMULUS THAT THE WORLD'S DIPLOMACY RECEIVED FROM THIS MAN FIVE YEARS AGO WILL BE LOST. IT WILL BE LOST AT A TIME WHEN THE ONE-TIME REFUGEE FROM HITLER'S BARBARISM AT LEAST WAS SPARING THE WORLD A COLLISION OF THE TWO ATOMIC GIANTS."

4. BELGIUM:

(A) AN EDITORIAL IN THE CATHOLIC DE STANDAARD SAID:
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 128357

"NOBODY IN WASHINGTON BELIEVES IT WILL COME TO THAT (RESIGNATION)....BUT WITH HIS OUTBURST THE SECRETARY HAS ACHIEVED WHAT HE ALWAYS ATTEMPTED TO AVOID: NAMELY THAT THE WAVE OF SCANDALS IN WASHINGTON AND US FOREIGN POLICY ARE NO LONGER SEEN AS COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT BUT HAVE BEEN LINKED. THIS IS THE MOST HARMFUL EFFECT OF HIS SALZBURG OUTBURST."

(B) THE SOCIALIST VOLKSGAZET WROTE THAT THE SECRETARY'S RESIGNATION WOULD HAVE "UNPLEASANT CONSEQUENCES" NOT ONLY FOR PRESIDENT NIXON AND THE US BUT FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD. AND IT CONTINUED: "THERE ARE STILL TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS AHEAD....THE WORLD CANNOT AFFORD TODAY TO LOSE HIS

SERVICES."

5. FINLAND: EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF THE US MASS MEDIA, EXPRESSING FEAR FOR THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE POLICIES.

(A) THE HELSINKI SWEDISH-LANGUAGE HUFVUDSTADSBLADET SAID THAT THE SECRETARY'S SALZBURG STATEMENT "COULD HAVE BEEN CUNNING TACTICS...TO ROAR OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL SO THAT IT CAN BE HEARD, MAKING EVERYBODY CONSCIOUS OF WHAT IT WOULD MEAN IF THE PRESIDENT OF THE USA, WITH HIS CLIPPED WINGS, WERE TO LOSE HIS FOREIGN MINISTER TOO IN TODAY'S WORLD POLITICAL SITUATION."

(B) THE INFLUENTIAL, CONSERVATIVE UUSI SUOMI QUESTIONED WHETHER THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT WAS "AN HONEST EMOTIONAL OUTBURST OF AN INFURIATED MAN OR A CAREFULLY PLANNED MOVEMENT." AND IT CONTINUED: "CYNICAL OBSERVERS CLAIM THAT HE WANTED TO FRIGHTEN HIS CRITICS TO SILENCE. KISSINGER IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SUPPORTING PILLAR IN THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION, AND THE PRESIDENT IS LIKELY TO DO HIS BEST TO CLEAR HIS REPUTATION. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FILL THE GAP CAUSED BY KISSINGER'S RESIGNATION."

6. USSR: THERE HAS STILL BEEN NO SOVIET COMMENT OR REPORTING ON THE SECRETARY'S SALZBURG PRESS CONFERENCE.

7. YUGOSLAVIA: A COMMENTATOR ON THE ZAGREB DOMESTIC CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 128357

SERVICE, JUNE 13, SUGGESTED THE FOLLOWING THEORIES--THE FORCES TRYING TO OVERTHROW THE PRESIDENT ARE NOW ALSO TURNING AGAINST THE SECRETARY; THE SECRETARY IS INCREASINGLY LINKING HIS DESTINY WITH THAT OF THE PRESIDENT; THE SECRETARY REACTED IN SUCH AN "EMOTIONAL AND EXCITED WAY" BECAUSE HE FELT THAT HIS "PRIVILEGED AND SUPERIOR POSITION" WAS THREATENED. NONE OF THESE THEORIES, ACCORDING TO THE COMMENTATOR, IS WITHOUT BASIS. THE SITUATION COULD BECOME MORE SERIOUS THAN IT APPEARS TO BE, AND THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE COULD HAVE DOCUMENTS THREATENING THE SECRETARY'S POSITION. IF THIS IS TRUE, THEN HE HAS SCORED A SIGNIFICANT POINT BY HIS MOVE AT SALZBURG, BECAUSE FIRST REACTIONS SHOW A CONVINCING MAJORITY OF CONGRESS AND POLITICAL CIRCLES ON HIS SIDE.

8. PAKISTAN: A MORNING NEWS EDITORIAL COMMENTED THAT THE SECRETARY IS "CLEVERER AND WISER" THAN THE PRESIDENT BECAUSE THROUGH HIS THREAT TO RESIGN "HE HAS REALLY TURNED THE TABLES ON HIS ACCUSERS." THE EDITORIAL CONTINUED: "IF DR. KISSINGER QUILTS...HIS COUNTRY'S LOSS WILL BE GREATER THAN HIS OWN LOSS--MAYBE EVEN THE WORLD'S LOSS WILL BE GREATER AT THIS MOMENT."

9. INDIA: THE NATIONAL HERALD TERMED THE SECRETARY'S THREAT TO RESIGN "MEANINGLESS." "TO SAY THAT WITH HIMSELF UNDER ATTACK US FOREIGN POLICY CANNOT BE CONDUCTED EFFECTIVELY REFLECTS KISSINGER'S EGO RATHER THAN THE TRUTH." IT ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS A RIGHT TO CLEAR HIMSELF.

10. AUSTRALIA:

(A) AN EDITORIAL IN THE AUSTRALIAN COMMENTED THAT THE SECRETARY'S NEGOTIATING ABILITY WILL BE USELESS "IF HIS INTEGRITY AND CAPACITY TO SPEAK FOR HIS COUNTRY ARE UNDERMINED BY THE WATERGATE MORASS." THE EDITORIAL ADDED THAT "ANY EMASCULATION OF DR. KISSINGER'S ROLE NOW WOULD BE A DISASTER SECOND ONLY TO HIS ACTUALLY RESIGNING."

(B) THE MELBOURNE AGE EDITORIALIZED: "DR. KISSINGER HAS DONE WHAT HE HAD ALWAYS AVOIDED--TO LINK HIMSELF AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 128357

CONDUCT OF US FOREIGN POLICY WITH THE UGLY QUAGMIRE OF WATERGATE." IT CONCLUDED "...THE THOUGHT OF HIS RESIGNATION IS ALMOST TOO SHOCKING TO CONTEMPLATE."

11. MALAYSIA: THE PENANG STRAITS ECHO BLAMED THE US PRESS FOR AN UNHEALTHY PREOCCUPATION WITH WATERGATE-TYPE TOPICS, WHICH COULD HARM AMERICAN PRESTIGE AND INFLUENCE ABROAD.

12. LATIN AMERICA: MAJOR PAPERS IN BRASILIA, CARACAS, MEXICO CITY, AND PANAMA CITY CONTINUED TO GIVE THE SECRETARY'S THREATENED RESIGNATION STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE, DRAWN FROM WIRE SERVICES. THE ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT THUS FAR, WHICH APPEARED IN BRAZIL'S PRESTIGIOUS O ESTADO DO SAO PAULO, SEVERELY CRITICIZED THE NEW YORK TIMES FOR HAVING "ACCUSED PUBLIC SERVANTS OF MISDEEDS WITHOUT GIVING THE ACCUSED THE RIGHT TO RESPOND."

13. CHINA: WE HAVE STILL NOTED NO PRC REACTION. SISCO

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